

As the Senator also is aware, in the last several weeks, the President's campaign has been accusing one of our colleagues, the Democratic nominee for President, of flip-flopping, saying one thing one day and saying something else at a later date. It is the pot calling the kettle black at the very least because it is this administration which, on every important issue to the American people, has either changed position or has persisted in providing a misleading and inaccurate argument on behalf of a position they have taken.

The long and distinguished career in public and military service of the Senator from Massachusetts, Senator KERRY, is one that needs no defense from me or anyone else. It stands on its own merits. It is regrettable that an administration, increasingly known for its two-sided approach and its talking out of both sides of its mouth at the same time, saying one thing and doing something else, would be accusing anyone of engaging in that kind of behavior.

Mr. President, it is April Fools' Day once a year. Thankfully, that is only once a year in most of our lives. Here in Washington, it is every single day, 365 days a year. The administration has engaged in April Fools' tricks on the people of this country repeatedly. But I think people are waking up and starting to say:

Wait a minute, where is that big surplus you promised if we did everything you said?

How come my taxes are going up as a middle income American while taxes on the richest are going down?

How come this is the first President in our Nation's history that has led us to war and cut taxes at the same time?

How come the White House didn't tell us the truth about the cost of the Medicare prescription drug?

How come the administration didn't fund No Child Left Behind the way it had been promised?

How come we are having a transportation bill that the President threatened to veto when it is the only jobs bill on the horizon that can put people to work and repair the infrastructure and modernize our transportation system in a way that will make us richer and stronger in the future?

Well, the April Fools' Day jokes are coming to an end. Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. The American people are starting to ask the hard questions. They are not just questions coming from Democrats, but from independents and Republicans, and coming from longtime Government employees who don't have any partisan affiliation, like Richard Clarke, asking hard questions that deserve honest answers.

At the end of the day, what really matters is that the American people have trust in their Government and believe their President when he talks to them about matters of life and death. That is what we are talking about—life

and death. So let's hope that when this day ends, maybe we can have some good news from this administration in the form of admissions and some corrections that will put us back on the path of unity, that will create the tone the President promised that would be a positive tone in Washington, where we could deal with the real problems facing Americans.

I am not optimistic, but I am hopeful that we could see that happen because these are matters of profound importance. It is imperative that we as a Nation have faith in our leaders in these dangerous and difficult times.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada has approximately 8 minutes left. Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STRENGTH BILL

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, one of the serious problems facing the Senate is the passage of the Jumpstart Our Business Strength, or JOBS, bill. The Senate needs to pass this bill now.

Since the World Trade Organization has ruled against the United States over our foreign sales corporation and extraterritorial income tax rules, we have had ample time to address this issue. The Senate Finance Committee reported legislation which would bring the United States into compliance with our trade obligations on October 1, 2003.

Today, the European Union's 5-percent tariff will increase to 6 percent, and every month it will increase another percent. This will make American agricultural and manufactured products increasingly less competitive in international markets.

Exports of U.S. agricultural products will approach \$60 billion this year. If we allow the EU to continue with these tariffs, we will continue to lose market share and export opportunities. When our farm exports are pressured, the truckers, rail lines, and shippers feel the ill effects.

The EU retaliation list includes about 400 agricultural, food, and forest product tariff lines of imports from the United States.

These are very serious threats to our American agricultural economy, and this is why. The values of our annual exports to the EU are live animals, \$23.7 million; meat and meat products, \$44.4 million; vegetables, \$35.6 million; oil seeds, \$64.6 million; rawhides and skins, \$41.3 million; wood products, \$140 million; sugar and confectionery products, \$21.2 million. The annual total of all these and other agricultural products amounts to more than \$691 million a year.

Let me also remind everyone that much of the food industry operates on very small profit margins. So the initial tariff increase of 5 percent, plus the additional 1 percent per month, can have a serious effect.

Also, the EU currency has been very strong against the U.S. dollar. This means it has been comparatively easier for our trading partners in Europe to buy our products, but the import tariff erodes that advantage and makes it easier for competitors—other countries—to take away our markets in the European area.

It is my hope that the Senate will complete action on the JOBS bill without any further delay so we can send that bill to the President, which he is prepared to sign immediately, so we can avert the lost sales, regain lost jobs in the agricultural sector, and restore hope in America's farms and factories.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we appreciate Senator COCHRAN speaking when he did. We have 8 minutes remaining. I ask unanimous consent that the time be reserved. We had someone who was going to speak but has not shown up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Who seeks recognition? The Senator from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes under the previous order.

DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP'S OBSTRUCTION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today is day 7 of the Democratic leadership's unprecedented obstruction of President Bush's nominees for various executive positions and judicial nominations. In fact, I have in my hand the Executive Calendar which reflects 46 of the President's nominees who stand ready to be confirmed by the Senate so they can get to work on behalf of the American people. But unfortunately, as appears to be a growing trend and one where our Democratic colleagues continue to dig in their heels, the answer to every entreaty we might offer, every suggestion we have in terms of creating jobs, in terms of putting people on the bench to decide cases that go unheard because judges are not being confirmed to these posts, we continue to get a consistent response on behalf of our Democratic colleagues of "no."

The answer they give to jobs and manufacturing, medical liability reform, a national energy policy, workforce investment, judges, small business, class action reform, and faith-based and charities legislation is "no."

Particularly on the judicial nominees, I point out, once again, that this obstructionism is unprecedented in the history of the Senate. Where we have a bipartisan majority in the Senate who stand ready to confirm highly qualified nominees, such as Justice Priscilla Owen of the Texas Supreme Court of my home State, people such as Janice Rogers Brown who serves on the California Supreme Court, or people such as Miguel Estrada who, after waiting